



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 24.1 Thursday, January 4, 2018

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE



Independent photo by James Otzman

A crew from Blue Ribbon Contracting in Romulus demolished this former house turned office building at 360 Charles Street in Belleville next to the Belleville Area District Library on Thursday, Dec. 28. This site will be part of the library/city parking lot next to the new, two-story district library which will be built over Fourth Street to Roys Street. Before Blue Ribbon did the demolition, an asbestos abatement team removed vermiculite insulation.

Library board discusses plans for new library, satellite facility

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

At its Nov. 14 meeting the Belleville Area District Library Board discussed plans for the new 31,401-square-foot library building to be constructed at a cost of \$10,035,163 in downtown Belleville, along with the satellite facility in Sumpter Township.

As part of the overall library project, the satellite branch in Sumpter Township

will be put in place in an existing hexagon building. Sumpter Township has about \$200,000 in escrow for this and the district library has \$250,000 in its budget. The branch is expected to open by fall of 2018.

Library architect Dan Whisler advised the board that the budget for the Sumpter project has to be updated because of issues with the mechanical system in the hexagon building that has to be replaced to bring it up to code for a library. He said Sumpter

just replaced the furnace but it doesn't meet the code for a library.

"The whole thing is kind of snowballing," Whisler said, adding he is unsure how much it will affect the budget. He said currently three or four people work out of that building and it is going from office use to library use with more people who will be coming in.

It was noted the roof leaks, an exterior door sticks, the building is located on a septic system, and there is duct work underneath the slab which may factor into the acoustics of the building. Building committee chairperson Joy Cichewicz said she called Sumpter Clerk Esther Hurst and left a message asking if there has been any

progress on the proposed agreement the library had presented in October and she hadn't heard back.

At its one-hour-and-ten-minute meeting on Nov. 14, the board also:

- Discussed the policies being considered for art acquisitions for the new library building and then approved them all. The funding for art will come from sources other than the tax money constructing the building;

- Heard architect Whisler say the engineering team had a Nov. 3 meeting with the City of Belleville's Building Official Rick Rutherford, a representative of the city's engineering consultant Hennessey

(continued on page 3)

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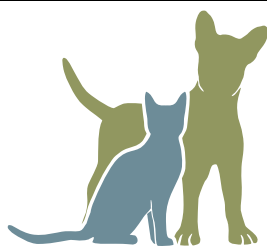
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Court Watching:

Darrell Veres sent for competency evaluation on home invasion charge

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Darrell Wayne Veres, 51, was present via video from the Wayne County Jail for his probable cause conference before 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley on Dec. 27.

Veres was charged with home invasion in the first degree on Dec. 13 in Van Buren Township and was lodged on \$25,000 cash bond.

His court-appointed defense attorney, Ricky J. Nelson, asked Judge Oakley to refer Veres to a competency and criminal responsibility evaluation and Judge Oakley said he would sign that order.

And, Nelson asked for a bond referral and Judge Oakley agreed.

Veres, on video, asked to talk to Judge Oakley and told him he is a deputy U.S. Marshal and would like to get out on a tether with a possible change in bond.

"No one has ever refused to check my status as a marshal," he said. "I have no record."

Judge Oakley said this may be the first time someone refused to check on that, but he doesn't see what difference it would make.

Nelson said a competency evaluation has also been ordered in Monroe by another judge and another attorney on another charge.

Judge Oakley said that would be redundant to do two evaluations, but Nelson said they won't. He assured the judge they would get it coordinated.

When the competency/responsibility

reports come back, the court will set the date for another probable cause conference.

Three members of Veres' family were in the courtroom to see him by video and support him.

Christopher Allen Griggs

Christopher Allen Griggs, 28, will have his preliminary exam on Jan. 10 on charges of larceny from a person and larceny in a building in Van Buren Township on April 29, 2015. He currently is free on \$5,000 personal recognizance bond. His court-appointed defense attorney is Christopher Sinclair.

John Patrick Rasmussen

John Patrick Rasmussen, 54, was in court for his preliminary exam on a charge of operating while intoxicated-third on April 17, 2015 in Van Buren Township. His retained attorney James Murray said a possible settlement is being worked out so he would like to adjourn the exam until Jan. 17. Judge Oakley agreed, noting the time will be 10 a.m.

Clayvon Anthony Choates

Clayvon Anthony Choates, 26, did not show up for his probable cause conference and Judge Oakley was about to issue a bench warrant for his arrest, when the judge said there had been some words in the paperwork about a possible rehab program. It was to be checked out to see if Choates was in rehab before a bench warrant was issued.

Choates is facing charges of larceny in a building and larceny of more than \$1,000 but less than \$20,000 in Van Buren Township on Jan. 24, 2015.

purchased by the library as part of the construction project. Global Green Service Group of Dearborn Heights bid \$9,000 and Environmental Maintenance Engineers of Inkster bid \$12,800. Environmental Testing & Consulting will be on site each day to monitor air quality while the abatement company removes the vermiculite insulation. The work is expected to take two days and Environmental Testing cost is \$400 a day;

- Learned the next step is to go out for bids for demolition of 360 Charles Street so the work can be done by the end of the year. The board voted unanimously to let the Building Committee make the decision on the demolition, hopefully prior to the next meeting on Dec. 12. The committee selected low bidder Blue Ribbon Contracting of Romulus; and

- Approved adding an extra hour to the hours the library is open on Friday and Saturday. It will be open until 6 p.m., instead of 5 p.m. on those days, starting in February.

George Jerome Wallace

A charge of unarmed robbery on Dec. 6 in Van Buren Township was dismissed against George Jerome Wallace, 17, because the complainant was out of town and didn't come to court to testify in the preliminary exam. Judge Oakley said this was dismissed without prejudice, which means the prosecutor could refile the charge in the future. Wallace's \$1,000 posted bond will be returned, less 10% for fees.

Patrick Kevin Koontz

Patrick Kevin Koontz, 56, was not present for his probable cause conference and his court-appointed attorney David Lankford explained why. He said Van Buren Township Officer Stanton told him Koontz was in inpatient rehabilitation for 30 days. "I'm glad to see him in there," Lankford said.

Judge Oakley adjourned the probable cause conference until Feb. 17.

Koontz is facing charges of delivery/manufacture of marijuana, felony firearm, brandishing a weapon in public, and gun

possession while operating under the influence in Van Buren Township on Dec. 11. He is free after posting bond of \$15,000/10%.

Dominique Akeem Washington

Dominique Akeem Washington, 28, waived his preliminary exam and was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information Jan. 10. He is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) on Dec. 8 in Van Buren Township and is free after posting bond of \$25,000/10%. His court-appointed defense attorney is David Lankford.

Oscar Vieil-Lorenzo Rice

Oscar Vieil-Lorenzo Rice, 32, waived his preliminary exam and was bound over to circuit court for a Jan. 10 arraignment on the information on charges of possession/sale of stolen/counterfeit insurance certificates and false pretenses of more than \$200 but less than \$1,000 in Van Buren Township on Dec. 5, 2016. He was lodged on \$10,000/10% bond. His court-appointed defense attorney is David Lankford.

Court Watching update:

Mother, father reach plea agreements in 2015 child's death on Harris Rd.

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The parents of a child who ran out onto Harris Road in Sumpter Township and was hit and killed by a car in August 2015 each has been sentenced to five years of probation after accepting plea deals.

Larissa Lydia Gagnon, 30, and Chad Ryan Vanover, 28, were tried separately with separate retained attorneys at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice on identical charges of homicide/involuntary manslaughter and second-degree child abuse.

Gagnon had personal recognizance bond of \$2,000 and Vanover was out on \$20,000 personal recognizance bond.

The Wayne County Prosecutor's office signed the warrants for their arrests on Dec. 1, 2016.

Chief 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green presided at their preliminary exams on March 15, 2017 and made the decision there was probable cause to send the cases to a higher court.

Eighteen-month-old Chad was hit by a passing car in front of his grandfather's home at 40900 Harris Road.

On Aug. 24, Gagnon pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter and the child abuse charge was dismissed. Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Vonda

Evans sentenced Gagnon to five years of probation, starting Sept. 25, 2017.

Vanover pled nolo contendere to both charges on Sept. 11, 2017 just before his jury trial was to begin. Circuit Court Judge James Chylinski sentenced him to nine months in jail and credited him with 70 days time served. He also was sentenced to five years of probation on each of the two charges, and the probation is being served concurrently starting Oct. 23, 2017.

Sumpter Township Police Chief Eric Luke said this was a "terribly sad case all around."

District Library

(continued from page 1)

Engineering, and the city's appointed Fire Marshal Dave McNally. Whisler said McNally is requiring a standpipe inside the stairwell and it's a part of the Fire Code, but Whisler said he's never had a fire chief ask for that before. If it's too costly, they will go back to the city to discuss it. The city also wants a new fire hydrant, which the library was going to install, anyway, and the underground storm detention has to meet Wayne County standards. He said the City of Belleville has control over its stormwater detention, but it wants the library to follow the county standards. Whisler said the library is asking for elimination of the city's required rooftop equipment screening;

- Approved the low bid of \$7,900 by Sloan Environmental Services, Inc. of Taylor for asbestos abatement in the house at 360 Charles Street that has been

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OPINIONS

Editorial

Library building, courthouse under construction in '18

It looks like the new Belleville Area District Library building in downtown Belleville and the new 34th District Court on the Romulus city campus will be under construction at about the same time.

The library plans an April 14 ground breaking and the court plans its ground breaking possibly in March.

These are two huge, multi-million-dollar buildings to serve the public. The library is paid for with tax money from the tri community of Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter. The court does not involve any tax money and its bonds will be paid off with court fines, which have been collected for several years from its customers in Belleville, Van Buren, Sumpter, Romulus, and Huron.

It took a lot of work to get the projects to this point and now we can watch the work as the underground work begins and then the walls rise.

A part of the library project is the transformation of the hexagon building in Sumpter Township from the present DPW office to a satellite library building for those in the rural community. The main scope of this renovated building will be technology, with computers for the public to use and classes on how to use them.

People also will be able to order books from the main library in Belleville, or from other libraries in the area and to drop them off in Sumpter for pickup. The Sumpter location is expected to be ready for opening this fall.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

MichiganVotes.org announces the voting records of our local representatives in Lansing between January and December, 2017. Our Belleville-area State Representatives all had perfect attendance records, with zero missed votes. Of the 511 roll-call votes taken in the House of Representatives, Kristy Pagan, D; Erika Geiss, D; and Joseph Bellino, Jr., all cast a vote on every ballot. We're very fortunate to have them paying attention to the jobs we elected them to do. Rep. LaTanya Garrett, D, of Detroit was tops in missed votes in the House, with 95 of 511 vote absences.

Our Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood, D, missed four of the 570 votes in the senate. We don't know the reasons, but we caution they may have been legitimate. The state senator who missed the most votes in the senate was Sen. Coleman Young, II, D, of Detroit, who missed 144 of 570 votes.

We received a brief note from Christopher Elg to update his mailing address for his *Independent* subscription. You may remember Chris who was Van Buren Township Public Safety Director until Supervisor Cindy King fired him for being one of the finalists for a job with the Green Bay, WI police department. He has worked in Louisiana and Florida since then. He retired in November after 33 years of law enforcement and took an active duty assignment with the U.S. Coast Guard in Washington, D.C. for a year. He said he's getting to do a fair amount of international travel in his new assignment, and he is happy to see a number of places he never expected to visit. The family now lives in



Jensen Beach, FL.

January is one of those "Blue Moon" months where we have two full moons in one month. We had a full moon on Jan. 1 and will have another one on Jan. 31. It only happens "once in a blue moon."

Jim Murray, an attorney who practiced from two different locations on Main Street in Belleville in the past, was in 34th District Court last week with his nine-year-old son Meyer Murray. In pauses in the court session, Jim told Judge Oakley and others about Meyer's latest triumph.

The fourth grader is the 2017 Border Wars National Wrestling Champ in his category. He weighs 64 pounds and plays for Detroit Catholic Central team, which Jim said was the best team in the state.

Jim said when Meyer won the championship both he and Meyer's mom cried.

Also at court last week, Judge Oakley said the ground breaking for the new court building is expected to be in March. The underground work will be done first. And, of course, one of the first things to do is to move the war memorial and store it until is reinstalled to the north of where it is now.

The new building will be constructed on the Romulus city campus, closer to Wayne Road than it is now.

When I was typing up the dispatch log for Van Buren Township Police Department, it seemed like there were a lot of vehicle accidents over the last week. So, I counted them. According to my count there were 40 property damage accidents and two personal injury accidents from Dec. 24 through Dec. 30. Wow.

We've had a lot of fun with the outside of our office building turned into the Belvil Theater, which the building used to be before it was an office building. People have come in wondering when the movies would start. A woman said she took a lot of pictures to send to her family members since her late father had been a projectionist at the theater. Others have told us they sold tickets at the window and popcorn in the lobby.

The marquee and posters and lights were put up by our advertising director Bob Mytych at the request of the building's owners, Gayl Parr and Denise Baker. Bob's putting together ideas for next year in case they decide to do it again.

This sure has been a frigid holiday season. Hope everyone is snuggled down.



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 - Albert Einstein

"I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that, then I realized "I AM SOMEBODY.""

-- Lily Tomlin

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Letters

Belleville Day in Florida to be held on Feb. 7

To the editor:

Are you from Belleville, Michigan? Or did you work there? If you have a strong connection to Belleville, then you are welcome to attend the annual "Belleville Day" luncheon held on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club in Citrus Hills, FL.

The cost is \$25 per person and includes lunch, dessert, coffee or tea.

To reserve your spot, send in the following information to the organizer, Lynn Gorman, P.O. Box 1781, Dunnellon, FL 34430. For questions, her email address is lynn@gorcomm.com.

With your \$25, please include your meal choice: Chicken Piccata or Baked Haddock; your name(s) indicating number of people; email address; and phone number. RSVP by Jan. 24 - FIRM. The event runs from 12 to 4 p.m. Lunch is served at 1 pm.

We have a great time talking about Belleville people and places with each other. We have several retired teachers who come - in fact they are the ones who started this event more than 30 years ago, so it's fun to share school memories with them.

There is always a lot of laughter in the room. We usually get about 40 people and we can accommodate a lot more than that, so please come! The food is great and we have a gift raffle.

Lynn Gorman
 Dunnellon, FL

Not so ho, ho, ho

To the editor:

Well the township folks did it to me again. I tried to be good this year, I really did. Yes dear this, yes dear that. Didn't curse at a certain trustee. DARN IT, I WAS GOOD. So I wrote to Santa, told him how good I'd been. Gave him my list (2½ pages long). I was gonna finally get what I wanted. Not what I deserved. So woke up Christmas morning, couldn't wait to drive my new Vette, try on my new Rolex.

But there was nothing under the tree. NOTHING. I quickly called 1-800-SANTAS hot line. I asked what happened to my presents. After being on hold for 20 minutes I was told that Santa had updated his GPS before leaving Christmas eve. When he got to Belleville he couldn't find my house cause I lived in VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP not Belleville. Well, thanks a lot, Leon.

Break an old man's heart, after trying so hard to be good. No good deed goes unpunished. Well, I will try to be good next year. But don't bet on it.

The best of 2018 to ya'll.

Vic Franzoi
 Van Buren Township

We need tutors for Adult Literacy Program

To the Belleville Area Community -

The Library is in need of friendly, patient volunteers who'd like to act as tutors in our Adult Literacy Program.

According to the U.S. Department of Education and the National Institute of Literacy, more than 32 million American adults are illiterate: that's 14% of the population.

Our Literacy program pairs adult learners who have low or no reading skills with free volunteer tutors. Pairs meet weekly in two-hour sessions to work on an individualized lesson plan designed by the tutor and learner together to address the learner's needs. Learners in our program pursue their own goals, such as improving their job prospects, participating in their child's education, and increasing their confidence and sense of self-worth.

The ideal tutor is patient, kind, and flexible. Adult learners come from all walks of life, and face many unique challenges. A good tutor will enjoy the challenges as well as the success. A background in teaching is not necessary, but patience and compassion are essential!

To become a tutor, you will need to complete 15 hours of basic literacy training. We are a small program, and rely on the Washtenaw Literacy Council for training: new volunteers will attend their trainings based on availability. Each volunteer will pay \$35 in materials fees, which includes a literacy textbook and training binder. (The Library covers an additional training fee to Washtenaw Literacy Council.)

Winter Training is scheduled for Jan. 20, 27, and Feb. 3. We're looking for volunteers who can attend the Winter session, as well as interested persons who might be able to attend future training sessions. The number of learners in our program fluctuates, and we'd like to build a list of potential tutors to train as needed!

If you would like to volunteer, or if you would like more information, please contact librarian Amy Greschaw by phone at (734) 699-3291 or by email at agreschaw@belleville.lib.mi.us.

Amy Greschaw
 Adult Services Librarian
 Belleville Area District Library
 167 Fourth St., Belleville

Thank you, St. Jude

Dear St. Jude:

Just a note to thank St. Jude for answering our prayers. Hope for another Blessed Year.

In prayer, C.J.

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Obituaries



Melvin Eugene Bleich

MELVIN EUGENE BLEICH

(February 24, 1921 - December 24, 2017)

Melvin Eugene Bleich died on December 24, 2017 at his home in Romeo, MI. He was born on February 24, 1921 in Detroit and grew up in Royal Oak. He graduated from Royal Oak High School in 1938. He attended Wayne University (and graduated in February 1944) in Detroit before entering the Army in 1942.

He married Joan Calvin on July 9, 1942 in Detroit. Mel served in the 106th Infantry Division in Europe and was wounded in March 1945. By 1949 he worked in newspaper advertising for the Federal Department Stores. On May 1, 1959 Joan and Mel became the owners of *The Romeo Observer* and published the weekly newspaper until it closed in June 24, 2015. He was a mentor to the *Belleville-Area Independent* and helped the newspaper get started in 1995. Mel was a lifelong member of Romeo Rotary where he enjoyed 53 years of perfect attendance.

Melvin is survived by his daughter Dianne of Austin, TX; Robert of Leonard, MI and Thomas and Frances Cox-Bleich of Santa Fe, NM. His wife Joan Bleich died on September 3, 2005.

Services were held Saturday December 30, 2017 at the Malburg Funeral Home in Romeo. Burial was in Romeo Cemetery.

Homegrown Knowledge: How to use solar energy to power your home

The Belleville Area District Library's Homegrown Knowledge Series will present "Power Your Home with Solar Energy" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 11.

Dave Strenski of Solar Ypsi will teach the economics of solar power and how it works. Prices continue to drop and solar is more affordable than ever, he said. Bring your power bill to get an estimate of what it would cost to be 100% solar. Strenski will have a list of solar contractors that can make it happen.

This free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Refreshments will be served.

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Obituaries



Edward Stanley Rafalski

EDWARD STANLEY RAFALSKI
 (April 10, 1927 - December 29, 2017)

Edward Stanley Rafalski, age 90, life-long Belleville area resident, passed away Friday, December 29, 2017 at his home. He was born April 10, 1927 in Sumpter Township, MI, son of Walter Stanley & Elizabeth (Mroz) Rafalski. Ed proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy in WWII. He drove a cement truck for many years for Clark Block & Supply. He was a member of St. Stephen's Catholic Church, New Boston, MI and was active with the local VFW and PNA. He loved the outdoors, and nature, especially bird watching and gardening. He was also a big Detroit Tiger baseball fan. Mr. Rafalski is survived by five children; Rozanne (Timothy) Ogger of Belleville, MI, Michael (Linda) Rafalski of Farmington Hills, MI, Elaine Hobi of Belleville, MI, Dianne (Michael) Cullen of Wayne, MI and Linda (Jay) Murray of Willis, MI; 12 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren and one on-the-way; a sister Eleanor Maciejewski of Belleville, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Irene J. (Stankiewickz) Rafalski on September 17, 2008; also four brothers: John, Stanley, Joseph and Walter Rafalski. Visitation was 1-8 PM Monday, January 1, 2018 with a 3 PM Rosary at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. In-state Tuesday, January 2, 2018 from 10-11 AM at St. Stephen's Catholic Church, 18858 Huron River Dr., New Boston, MI 48164. Funeral Mass began at 11 AM with Father John Hedges as Celebrant, and was followed by full honors from the VFW Honor Guard. Interment followed at St. Stephen's Cemetery, New Boston, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and would be appreciated by the family. www.davidcbrownfh.com

Upcoming Meetings



- Monday, Jan. 8 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 9 – Van Buren Township Local Development Financing Authority, 2 p.m., Also Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township regular meeting, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 10 – Sumpter Township fact-finding committee on the new Michigan Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act meets at 6:30 p.m. Time for public input. Also, Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 11 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

Robert John Anderson

ROBERT J. ANDERSON
 (June 25, 1928 -- December 24, 2017)

Robert John Anderson, age 89, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away Sunday, December 24, 2017 at his home. He was born June 25, 1928 in Belleville, MI, son of Hillard Hermont & Margaret (Brown) Anderson. Mr. Anderson is survived by his wife Rosemary (Nagy) Anderson of nearly 67 years; 8 children, Rodney (Lesli) Anderson of Colorado, Rebecca Anderson of Midland, MI, Robert Anderson of Florida, R. Joel (Christine) Anderson of Ypsilanti, MI, Roberta Anderson of Colorado, James R. (Cheryl) Anderson of Colorado, Roch Anderson of Colorado, and R. Jay Anderson of Belleville; also 18 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren and his dog Ellie. Mr. Anderson is preceded in death by a sister Kathleen Nass, also a son Robin Anderson. Bob started farming on North Belleville Road and raised eight children. He worked for Horst Manufacturing Company for three years. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force in Michigan Air National Guard for 17+ years. He enjoyed woodworking and collecting coins. His true passion was mushroom hunting. He took classes at the University of Michigan and co-authored a book Wild Edible Foods of Michigan. Bob was a very busy man, but always supported his family. He was a former member of the Belleville Moose Lodge and the Van Buren Eagles. Visitation was 4-8 p.m. Tuesday and 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, January 3, 2018 with an 11 a.m. funeral at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Reverend John Kiselica officiated. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the donor's choice. www.davidcbrownfh.com

Albino (Mickey) Orsini, Jr.

ALBINO (MICKEY) ORSINI, JR.
 (December 28, 1935 - December 25, 2017)

Albino Orsini, Jr., 81, of Romulus passed away Christmas morning at Beaumont (Dearborn). He is survived by his wife of 61 years Janice (Similo) Orsini; daughters Terry Anderson and Lori (Tony) Riva; grandchildren Lindsay (Bill) Poirier and Ryan Riva; and two great-granddaughters, Gia and Claire Poirier. He is also survived by his mother Yolanda and brother, Gary, both in Pennsylvania. Services and cremation rites were held December 29, 2017 at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock.

More Obituaries on page 6

Po attorney Ron Ruark comments on report given by Sumpter atty.

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its Dec. 12 meeting, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees and members of the audience got a 22-minute, glowing report from Sumpter attorney Rob Young on the conclusion of the litigation with Sumpter residents Clarita and Nelson Po.

Ron Ruark, who one of was the Po's attorneys, said Young's report was pretty factually accurate, but his conclusions are all wrong.

"We began the case with about \$1.1 million in assets," Ruark said. "Nelson is getting everything back except approximately \$230,000 or one-half of what's left in the bank."

Ruark said the police department brought several lawsuits upon itself.

"Had they acted with any competence at all, it all could've been avoided," Ruark said Friday. "The insurance company for the township paid the Po's \$8,000+

for every day they kept them in prison. Evidence may be missing; we'll find out in a couple of weeks. That aspect of the case is not yet over.

"Sumpter Township took pictures and then denied they existed," Ruark said. Attorney Scott Ruark presented the evidence to the *Independent* supporting that charge.

"If John Toth experienced anxiety over the case, he brought it upon himself," Ruark said, referring to Young's comments..

"Sumpter Township wanted to shut Nelson down. They failed. Sumpter Township wanted to convict him of a felony. They failed. There's no such thing as a 'high misdemeanor.' It doesn't exist," referring to Young's use of the term. "It's the kind of thing someone says to justify why there's no felony conviction, which is what Sumpter wanted.

"Donald Swinson wanted to prevent Nelson from growing. He failed. In fact, his father has been prosecuted in felony

court and is being sued in civil court. His [father's] granddaughter is about to be sued. Pulling guns on innocent people appears to be in the Swinson DNA.

"How anyone can call this a success for Sumpter is stupefying. Nelson will receive 85% of his assets back -- according to the settlement put on the record -- and he can still grow medical marijuana. And Sumpter is legally obligated to actively help him!

"A Sumpter trustee had Nelson Po prosecuted in criminal court for allegedly disturbing a worker. He clearly used the case for political advantage. Not one juror believed him. I cannot believe Sumpter Township continues to elect people like Donald Swinson, who engineered the prosecution of a Sumpter Township citizen for his own political advantage. It was a shameful performance...

"This could have been handled much more effectively, without all of the negative consequences for the Township of Sumpter. They could've turned this to their advantage. They failed.

"Sumpter Township actually sold

200 pounds of marijuana to Nelson for \$40,000. There is documentary proof of this transaction. As far as I know, the Sumpter Police Department was never held accountable for this transaction. They're arresting people and putting them in jail for doing the exact same thing they're doing."

Ruark said the current Sumpter Police Department is harassing innocent citizens.

"If the good people of Sumpter continue to tolerate this subsidence level of police conduct, they will continue to get what they deserve," he said.

Correction:

Waste Management would give \$5,000 a year for clubhouse upkeep

In last week's story on the fifth amendment to the host agreement between Van Buren Township and Waste Management for Woodland Meadows Landfill, two figures were reported in error.

In the first column on page 13 we reported Waste Management offered to pay \$15,000 a year for maintenance of the golf course clubhouse, if the township decided to lease it for \$1 a year. The maintenance figure should be \$5,000 a year.

Also, in the second column on page 15, Treasurer Sharry Budd is reported to have said the owners of the former Visteon Village are building a 700,000-square-foot addition. It actually is a 124,000-square-foot addition.

On page 3, the story about Library Director Mary Jo Suchy talks of her glowing job evaluation and then notes, "She was found 'outstanding' in 16 areas

and 'unsatisfactory' in one." That is incorrect. I listened to the recording of the meeting on You Tube and discovered that when LaChelle Caver described the rating system from 1 to 6, with six being tops and "unsatisfactory is one," I misunderstood and misreported. Fake news, I guess. Suchy got all fives and sixes, and lots of glowing comments about her work.

We regret the errors.

Rosemary K. Otzman, editor

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Belleville attorney Barbara Rogalle Miller, left, and Bettye Misuraca of Public Service Credit Union joined Eugene A. Gargara, Jr., for a picture at a recent special reception for community leaders at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Gargara is chairman of the DIA Board of Directors. Community leaders attended from Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties. Miller is secretary of the Wayne County Art Authority and Misuraca is president.

Dawn Farm sets sessions on what to know and do about teens using drugs

"Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do" is a free, ongoing, two-part education series that provides helpful, hopeful, practical information for parents, teens, families and people who work with teens/families.

Part One provides information on understanding teen substance abuse and recognizing signs that may indicate a young person is involved with alcohol/other drugs. Part Two includes separate sessions for adults to learn "what to do" when an adolescent substance use problem is suspected or identified, and for teens to explore their beliefs about and use of substances. Adults and teens also hear a talk by a young person in recovery from a substance disorder.

The "Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What to Do" series is sponsored by Dawn Farm, and co-sponsored by the Ann Arbor Public Schools, St. Joseph Mercy Greenbrook Recovery Center, and the WISD/LESA Health Educators' Learning

Network (supporting and advocating for Whole School, Whole Community, and the Whole Child Approach-WSCC.) The programs are presented by Dawn Farm Youth and Family Services therapists.

The January 2018 series will be presented from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday Jan. 2, (part one, What to Know) and Tuesday, Jan. 9, (part two, What to Do.) The "Teens" programs are held at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti; in the Exhibition Room on the first floor. The series is free and open to the public. Parents, other family members, teens, students and people who work with teens are all welcome, and families are encouraged to attend together if they would like to. Free literature about alcohol/other drugs and teens is also provided.

For further information phone (734) 485-8725, e-mail info@dawnfarm.org or see <http://dawnfarm.org/programs/teens-using-drugs/>.

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Coyotes are seen on Aberdeen in Victoria Commons subdivision last week. A resident sent this picture to Belleville Police. It was taken by a security camera. Coyotes were seeded in the Lower Huron Metropark about two decades ago and they have been seen throughout Van Buren and Sumpter townships. Now there is proof they come into the city, as well.

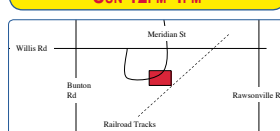


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Correction: In last week's edition, on page 10, the women in this picture were misidentified. From left in this photo are Sherry Lynn Johnson, Ronald Barrington Robinson of Sumpter Township, Democratic candidate for Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, and Jay Bardell of Sumpter Township. The picture was taken at the Dec. 1 party of the Western Wayne (County) Democratic Club.



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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Jan. 11** – The Belleville Area District Library's Homegrown Knowledge Series presents "Power Your Home with Solar Energy" at 7 p.m. Thinking about solar power for your home or office? Join Dave Strenski of Solar Ypsi to learn about the economics of solar power and how it works. Prices continue to drop and solar is more affordable than ever. Bring your power bill to get an estimate of what it would cost to be 100% solar. Dave will have a list of solar contractors that can make it happen. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Refreshments served.

• **Saturday, Jan. 13** – Community United Methodist Church, 11160 Olive St., Romulus, is holding another Roast Beef Dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. Donation is \$10 for adults, \$4 for ages 6-12, and free for ages 5 and under. For carry out, call (734) 941-0736. www.romuluscumc.net

• **Saturday, Jan. 28** – Wild Game Dinner at the Wayne County Fairgrounds dining hall. Tickets are \$35 per ticket. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner is ready at 6 p.m.

• **Tuesday, Jan. 30** – Learn how to influence local decisions involving clean water. The Huron River Watershed Council will be at the Belleville Area District Library from 6 to 8:30 p.m. for the Change Makers workshop. Free.

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ORPHAN OF THE WEEK

"SHARNA"



Sweet **Sharna** will make an excellent addition to your life for the New Year. She's a pretty orange and white kitty with a calm, affectionate and supportive demeanor that will help you keep any new year's resolutions. **Sharna** will always have your back and be the first to cheerlead your success with affirmations like "Great job" or "You can do it" although all you might hear is meows. She will also keep a positive environment where you can relax knowing you have a friend that believes in you. She seems a little shy here but we believe it's more her wanting to stay away from the bully cats than the people. She certainly doesn't turn down any pets and attention and is even ok with being picked up and held. **Sharna** will do best in a quiet, calm household where her similar personality will shine. Come meet **Sharna** and ring in the New Year with a true blue friend for life. She's spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.

Happy New Year from FMAR!



Chuck Covington, CEO of People's Transit, and his wife Kristin donated this 13-passenger Ford Paratransit Bus with wheelchair lift to Van Buren Township for its senior department. He said he saw a rusted-out van with the VBT logo on it out on the street and thought, "This doesn't look like a premier community." He said he bought the van two or three years ago to use for a project with Checker Cab and did use it twice and then it sat unused. He said he had to take it in the shop to get it upgraded and ready to go, then he gave it to the township. "Hopefully, it will help get the seniors when they need to go." Posing for a picture with the van are, from left, VBT Clerk Leon Wright, Trustees Kevin Martin and Reggie Miller, Treasurer Sharry Budd, Covington, VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara, and Trustee Paul White. Covington sits on the VBT Local Development Finance Authority.



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Keystone Academy Students of the Month



The Keystone Academy students of the month for October, excelled in the virtue of respect. In front, from left, are: Vance Clay (K), Royce Craddick (Y5), Patryck Millington (K), Ellie Wolff (1), Jonah Schlager (1), Violette Mallari (2), Avri Fallon (2), Eduard Juravlea (1), Peyton Meadows (K), and David Brown (not pictured) (2). In the middle row, from left, are Giovanni Palazzolo (4), Dylan Abbas (4), Ashley Houck (4), Gillian Norden (5), Ainsley Patterson (5), Jillian Wygonik (5), Beatrice Juravlea (3), Liam Vojtkofsky (3), and Mia Shrader (3). In back, from left, are Jack Foster (8), Jean Marc Borgdorff (8), Noel Moore (8), Gavin Worley (7), Anastasia Hill (7), Dayanah Lewis (6), Keion Thomas (6), and Vance Parker (6). Aaron Davis (7) is not pictured.



The following students were honored for exemplifying the November Virtue of Gratitude at Keystone Charter Academy: From left in front are Braxten Rowsey (K), Liam Demske (1), Gracelyn Wilson (1), Re' Anna Lee (1), Carmella Thomas (Y5), Zarina Kittle (K), Khole Williams (K), Jeremy Durr (2), Harper Mathis (2), and Matthew Suciu (2). In the middle row, from left, are Ashlynn Charles (3), Isaiah Strudgeon (3), Trenton Foley (3), Estera Floarea (5), Jaclyn Sterly (5), Josie Mallari (4), Griffin Worley (4), Ayden Bantau (4), Vaughn Leposky, not pictured, (5). In back, from left, are Ava Parker (7), Trinity Dozier (8), Alysia Townsend (6), Becky Pitu (8), Cheyenne Teall (8), Haylee McNamee (7), Hannah Giacalone (7), Eli Jeng (6), and Landon Patro (6).



Too Good to Miss: Jorjan Allen holds Sammy who is blind and deaf, but enjoyed the Oct. 21 Monster Mutt Walk in Belleville. Allen said Sammy is about 12 years old and formerly was in a puppy mill. The dog still is a little skittish, even though she is in a loving home, Allen said.



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There was a turnout of more than 400 people on Oct. 14 when the Van Buren Township Fire Department held a pancake breakfast at Fire Hall #2 on Belleville Road. Among those attending the event were, from left, VBT Trustee Kevin Martin, Planning Commissioner Medina Atchinson, and Ella Atchinson, who was bussing tables to earn community service credits for her school. Public Safety Director Greg Laurain said the money raised will be used to buy more smoke detectors.



It was all you can eat pancakes and sausage for \$5 a plate for adults. U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell dropped by for breakfast dressed in her Rosie the Riveter outfit before heading off to Ypsilanti to help the Yankee Air Museum regain the Guinness World Record for the most Rosies in one place. It was 3,755 this time, again beating the California record.

Dawn Farm Education Series announces topics for month of February

"Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do" is a free, ongoing, two-part education series that provides helpful, hopeful, practical information for parents, teens, families and people who work with teens/families.

Part One provides information on understanding teen substance abuse and recognizing signs that may indicate a young person is involved with alcohol/

other drugs. Part Two includes separate sessions for adults to learn "what to do" when an adolescent substance use problem is suspected or identified, and for teens to explore their beliefs about and use of substances; adults and teens also hear a talk by a young person in recovery from a substance disorder.

The "Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do" series is sponsored

by Dawn Farm, and co-sponsored by the Ann Arbor Public Schools, St. Joseph Mercy Greenbrook Recovery Center, and the WISD/LESA Health Educators' Learning Network (supporting and advocating for Whole School, Whole Community, and the Whole Child Approach-WSCC.) The programs are presented by Dawn Farm Youth and Family Services therapists.

The February 2018 series will be presented from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 6, (part one, What To Know) and Tuesday, Feb. 13, (part two, What To Do.) The "Teens" programs are held at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti, in the Exhibition Room on the first floor. The series is free and open to the public. Parents, other family members, teens, students and people who work with teens are all welcome, and families are encouraged to attend together if they would like to. Free literature about alcohol/other

drugs and teens is also provided.

For more information, phone (734) 485-8725, e-mail info@dawnfarm.org or see <http://dawnfarm.org/programs/teens-using-drugs/>.

Chamber of Commerce announces nominees

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce has announced the nominees for this year's awards. The winners will be announced at the annual banquet on Jan. 13. Nominees are: *Ted Kuckleman Award*: Sandy Askew, John Juriga, and Jeff Vernon; *Leona Van Buhler Award*: Mike Kole, Steve Jones, and Amanda Kennicott; and *Business of the Year*: Garden Fantasy on Main, Hayward's, and Wayne County Community College.

The banquet will be held at Angel Food Catering. For tickets, call 697-7151.



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Notice is hereby given that on 1/11/18
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will be sold on line at:

Bid13.com

SPACE #B10 Robert Taylor, #B14 Robert Taylor, #C12 Louetta Williams, #D9 Daniel Norden, #C38 Stephanie Harbin, #G9 Matt Krakowiak, #G33, Matt Krakowiak, #H23 Janeese Horne, #I9 Gilbert Harrison Unit(s) may or may not include the following: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, seasonal decorations, tools.

Publish: January 4, 2018, January 11, 2018

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE is hereby given that on January 20, 2018 at 12:00 p.m., Full House Self Storage at 7886 Belleville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 is holding a public auction. Unit(s) may or may not include the following: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, misc. N810, O715 & S960, Terry Both; E227 & I430, Vinney E. Giacalone; Q901, Louise Kantor; P779, Mickenzie Chandler; H369, Jerome White; Q900, Melissa Smith; L534, Karen Wilkerson; L530, Frank Murphy.

Publish: Jan. 4, 2018, Jan. 11, 2018

FOR SALE

JAMES DEAN: Poster, also 12"x15" tin photo, & a 15"x9.5" full head picture. Individual gun carrying cases. (734) 578-2824

01/04

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01/11

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01/18

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WANTED - SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladex's, 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600

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02/08

H & W TOWING. Top \$ cash paid for junk vehicles. Free towing. (734) 223-5581

02/15

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01/18

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01/04

"The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money."

- Alexis de Tocqueville

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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Bob Mytych and his great-niece Elizabeth Mytych, 11, helped people with their chalk drawings on Fourth Street during Harvest Fest on Oct. 14.

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Retired piano teacher knows importance of caregiving

DEARBORN — You can hear the pride in Joyce Younk's voice when she talks about years of teaching students piano in her home and also serving as the church organist for Faith United Methodist Church in Belleville for 25 years.

Unfortunately, Younk's piano playing and teaching days ended when she faced a series of serious medical conditions, including spinal stenosis that left her paralyzed. She relied on the help of caregivers and her husband Jim Younk, who retired from Ford Motor Credit Company.

"In 2014, my husband was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis," said Younk. "He was on a lung transplant list until he took his name off after I went to the hospital for emergency surgery at the end of 2016."

Over the next several months, Joyce Younk rotated between hospitals and rehabilitation, not knowing when she would be able to come home. In the meantime, she realized her husband's condition was worsening, and he needed assistance as well. She remembers calling three or four agencies before hiring Beaumont caregivers who met their needs.

She said, "We got along well."

By August, the time had finally come for Younk to go home after a lengthy rehabilitation.

"Both spouses needed care. This is where care management and coordination become so critical," said Marcia Filek, director of private duty and geriatric care management for Beaumont Personal Assistance Services. "It's important to fully meet the needs of each person."

Younk came home on Aug. 28 to be with her husband, who was receiving hospice care at home and Beaumont Personal Assistance Services. He died only a few days later in early September.

"During this very difficult and emotional

time, we worked out a schedule to help Joyce and her family through this difficult transition," said Filek. The Younks have four adult children, two of whom live close by and the others out of state.

According to Filek, Beaumont now provides a team of six aides who rotate shifts to help Younk 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

"My helpers provide much more than personal assistance. They're very friendly and well-trained," said Younk. "They also help me care for my dog by letting her outside when she needs to go."

Even though Younk is no longer able to play the piano, she keeps a positive attitude and maintains her independence by staying in touch with family, friends and a variety of topics through social media, email and the internet. She also enjoys watching home decorating shows on TV.

Younk said, "I'd like to talk with them about building houses that are more wheelchair and handicap accessible to make it easier for people like me to stay at home."

"It's easy to see that Joyce is a very knowledgeable and social person who understands how important caregiving and companionship are to quality of life," added Filek. "Beaumont is glad we can be there for her."

Beaumont Personal Assistance Services, formerly Senior Care Solutions (SCS), by Oakwood, offers geriatric care assessments and case management services along with in-home, non-medical and personal-care services for seniors and post-trauma patients. Services are available throughout Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. For more information, call (866) 776-1869 or visit www.OakwoodSeniorSolutions.org.

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Wi Fi HOTSPOT

Belleville DDA approves budget, OKs moving forward on sculptures

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor approve

On Oct. 18, in its first meeting since July 19, the Belleville Downtown Development Authority, with a bare quorum attending, finally approved its 2017-18 budget.

On Oct. 18, the DDA met with five members and all approved the document. Mayor Kerreen Conley and DDA member Alicia McGovern were out of town.

But, before the \$684,600 balanced budget could be accepted, the new five-year maintenance agreement with the city had to be approved. The former maintenance agreement had expired and changes were negotiated with the help of attorneys on both sides: city and DDA.

The maintenance agreement was approved by the DDA and so the agreement and the budget can be sent on to the city council for final approval.

The maintenance agreement changes include:

- No third-party contractual obligations to the DDA. If the city hires an employee or enters into a contractual agreement and its cost is less than the city had quoted to the DDA, the cost to the DDA will be adjusted accordingly;
- Audit of insurance and electricity cost sharing. There is a continual increase in the street lighting cost even though the DDA put in LEDs, said Carol Thompson, DDA Coordinator, who

presented the agreement; and

- Term of agreement is five years, retroactive to July 1, 2017. It will extend for another five years unless either party given written notice to terminate by a deadline.

Other changes include the city upping the rent on Thompson's office from \$150 to \$200 a month. It had been \$150 a month since 1994.

Also, Capital Improvement Contributions to the city were removed because that is not allowed in the current DDA Act legislation. And, routine DPW maintenance will generate a payment of \$15,000 per quarter to the city. The 3% of actual costs of service for the DDA will be reimbursed for finance director (as a separate item), city manager, city clerk, and two clerical staff.

The city also agreed to present a detailed invoice quarterly.

In reviewing the budget, it was pointed out the DDA captures a total of \$676,100 from the city, Wayne County, Wayne County Community College, and the library. The amount from the city is \$407,325.

Bond payments and bond fee for the 2010 Main Street upgrades are \$369,308 of the 2017-18 budget. Thompson said the 2010 bond payments continue to rise for the next few years with a ceiling of \$419,920 in 2020.

In other business at the 50-minute Oct. 18 meeting, the DDA:

Sumpter Twp. Police investigate death of four-year-old girl

At about 10:43 a.m., Monday, Jan. 1, Sumpter Township Police responded to a 911 call from a residence on Greenmeadow Drive, inside the Rawsonville Woods Mobile Home Community, on the report of an unresponsive four-year-old female.

Upon arrival, police report CPR was being administered by family members and officers found the child suffering from obvious severe burns about her extremities. She was transported to St. Joseph Mercy

Hospital in Ann Arbor by Huron Valley Ambulance and shortly after arrival was pronounced dead.

Sumpter police are working in conjunction with the Washtenaw County Medical Examiner, a forensic unit from Michigan State Police, and Child Protective Services to investigate the case. The exact cause of death has yet to be determined.

No further information will be released at this time, said Police Chief Eric Luke.

- Approved pursuing with Van Buren Township DDA a plan to get another round of outdoor sculptures next year from the Midwest Sculpture Initiative and to pay the \$500 initial cost. Last year, VBT had four sculptures and Belleville six. Thompson said maybe VBT will take one for their Placemaking site and it will take a few months to figure out how many to order. Prices will be \$1,500 more than last year's order. Thompson said last year Belleville's six sculptures cost \$9,354, minus \$3,300 in donations, for a total of \$6,050 to the DDA. VBT DDA paid \$6,232 for their four, she said;

- Heard Randy Brown suggest a Belleville Area Art Challenge, similar to the art prize in Grand Rapids, for artists in Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter. They could be paintings, sculptures, metal art, or other media. He said an entry fee would be \$20 to \$50. He said the DDA could seed it for a couple of years and then get out of funding it and, "Let the DDA spend its money on something else." He said they could run it for three weeks and the public would vote online, eliminating art pieces each week. The art would

(continued on page 17)

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OCTOBER 14, 2017

POST FEB.15 TO FEB.28

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Four generations joined those getting together on Oct. 14 to break the Rosie the Riveter record with 3,755 Rosies. From left in back are granddaughter Jessica Lane, great-grandmother Judy Sereno, and daughter Michelle Sereno. In front from left are great-grandmother Sharon Claxton and great-granddaughter Adriana Lane.

City of Belleville Public Notice

City of Belleville

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Community Development Block Grants

A public hearing is scheduled before the City Council on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street, for the purpose of:

**RECEIVING COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS
REGARDING THE 2018 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM**

The City of Belleville expects to receive **approximately** \$48,807 in year 2018 CDBG funds. Projects must meet HUD regulations and Wayne County's program guidelines. Additional information is available by contacting the City Clerk's office, 6 Main Street, Belleville MI 48111 – phone (734) 697-9323.

Pursuant to the program guidelines, the City of Belleville is announcing its program objectives and proposed uses of the **estimated** CDBG funds as follows:

PROPOSED GOALS AND PROJECTS:	
GOAL: Suitable Living Environment	
Location: City-wide	
Activity: Senior/Disabled Services	\$ 9,830
Activity: ADA Public Facilities Projects	\$ 33,096
Activity: Senior Chore Services	\$ 1,000
Program Administration	
Strategic Planning	<u>\$ 4,881</u>
TOTAL	\$ 48,807

Citizens are invited to comment on the proposed projects and to suggest other projects which meet the County's guidelines.

Sherri Scharf
City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: December 28, 2017 & January 4, 2018

Sumpter Township board sells 11 of the parcels of land it owns

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Eleven parcels of land the township owned was sold to bidders as presented to the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees at its Nov. 28 meeting.

The names of the bidders and the other bids submitted for the parcels were not announced.

The motion to accept the bids as presented was passed unanimously, except for Trustee Matthew Oddy's abstention on three parcels. At the workshop session, Trustee Oddy explained his abstention because of helping people in the process.

The parcels sold and the bid prices accepted were as follows:

- Parcel 81-079-99-0012-000 on Karr Road for \$25,501;
- Parcel 81-086-99-0008-709 on Dunn

Road for \$3,600. Trustee Oddy abstained from the vote on this parcel;

- Parcel 81-088-01-0022-000 on Martinsville Road for \$10,000;
- Parcel 81-114-99-0007-000 on Karr Road for \$10,000;
- Parcel 81-135-99-0022-700 on Oakville-Waltz Road for \$8,500;
- Parcel 81-130-99-0010 on Executive Drive for \$6,000;
- Parcel 81-130-99-0003-000 on Arkona Road for \$5,000;
- Parcel 81-129-99-0003-000 on Sumpter Road for \$2,001. Trustee Oddy abstained from the vote on this parcel;
- Parcel 81-127-99-0008-000 on Karr Road for \$10,000. Trustee Oddy abstained from the vote on this parcel;
- Parcel 81-125-99-0006-000 on Elwell Road for \$6,001; and

- Parcel 81-108-99-0004-700 on Martinsville Road for \$5,102.

In other business at the Nov. 28 regular meeting, the board:

- Approved the Sumpter Township workshop and board meeting schedule for 2018 and the planning commission meeting schedule for 2018;

- Approved closing the township hall from Dec. 25 until Jan. 1, with employees using paid time off or vacation time for Dec. 27 and 28. The township hall will reopen on Jan. 2. The treasurer's office at township hall will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 29 for payment of taxes;

- Approved the appointment of Dawn Sliwa to the Board of Review to replace Jennifer Massel, with a term to expire in January 2018;

- Tabled action on the auditor's recommendation to increase the rubbish pick up fee to \$27 per quarter. It is expected to be back on the board agenda on Dec. 12;

- Heard Supervisor John Morgan thank Karen Mickens and Lottie Sanders for putting on the free Thanksgiving Day dinner for the community. "The whole thing was out of sight," Supervisor Morgan said. Although the two were not present at the meeting, people in the audience and on the board gave them a round of applause; and

- Heard Clerk Esther Hurst announce that

the Senior Citizen Christmas Party will be at noon on Dec. 12. It will cost \$5 for members or bring a dish to pass. Guests are \$15 each. She also announced 380 meals were delivered in November and 500 were eaten on site. One hundred and forty passengers used the transportation service.

Sculptures

(continued from page 16)

be at city hall, the museum, and inside businesses. Voting would be done with a "geofence" and you'd have to be in the city to vote. And, there would be professional judges, too. The winners of cash prizes would be announced at a reception. He said they have to talk to the arts council, CBC and others about it. "Carol and I talked about a contest, instead of having art all around," Brown said, referring to Carol Thompson. He said it would have to be organized and, "I'm just the idea guy." The DDA encouraged the idea and said to pursue the project. Thompson said they would get a committee together to meet; and

• Heard Treasurer Sabrina Richardson Williams say the \$175,258.07 accounts payable approved for August, September and October, includes \$77,072.50 to the city who paid the DDA's bond payment in September.

This was the last meeting of the DDA for 2017, since the regular meetings of Nov. 15 and Dec. 20 were cancelled.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF A HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT OPERATING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR EXPANSION OF TREATMENT AND STORAGE CAPABILITIES Michigan Disposal Waste Treatment Plant January 4, 2018

Persons requiring assistance with receiving this information, in a language other than English, should contact Ms. Kimberly M. Tyson at 517-284-6574 or tysonk@michigan.gov.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Waste Management and Radiological Protection Division (WMRPD), hereby gives notice that the Michigan Disposal Waste Treatment Plant (MDWTP) located at 49350 North 1-94 Service Drive, Belleville, Michigan submitted revisions to its hazardous waste management facility operating license application (Application) on October 31, 2017, and December 8, 2017. The Application was submitted pursuant to Part 111, Hazardous Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. The revisions respond to the MDEQ request for additional information identified in its August 28, 2017, Completeness Notice of Deficiency. Along with the revisions, MDWTP submitted a proposal to expand its hazardous waste storage and treatment operations.

MDWTP proposes to increase hazardous waste storage and treatment capacities; conduct treatment outside of the treatment tanks; add the treatment of (D003) reactive sulfide containing waste; add management of hazardous waste containing dioxins; enlarge the boundary of the outdoor Southeast Container Storage Area (SECSA); store trailers holding drums, not immediately off-loaded upon receipt, in the SECSA; and install an additional groundwater monitoring well in the SECSA. Ms. Sylwia Scott is the contact person for MDWTP and can be reached by telephone at 734-699-6294 or sylwia.scott@usecology.com.

The MDEQ is reviewing the Application. During our review, we will determine if the proposed activities comply with all state and federal hazardous waste facility licensing requirements; evaluate and consider potential impacts that the proposed expansion could have on the local community; and provide the public opportunities to offer input on the proposed expansion. The MDEQ invites public comment on the Application. Written comments may be provided to Ms. Tyson at the address below throughout the review process. The MDEQ has not scheduled a public hearing, after receipt of the application. However, interested persons may submit a written request for a public hearing to Ms. Tyson by January 12, 2018.

Prior to making a final determination to issue or deny a hazardous waste management facility operating license, the MDEQ will hold a public hearing regarding its tentative decision.

The Application is available for review online at <http://www.michigan.gov/deq> (click on Waste; Hazardous Waste; Hazardous Waste and Liquid Industrial By-Products Management; and under Facility Operating Licenses click on Michigan Disposal Waste Treatment Plant Hazardous Waste Management Operating License Information); at the Van Buren Charter Township, Clerk Office, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan (contact Mr. Matthew Best at 734-699-8913); at the MDEQ, Southeast Michigan District Office, Warren, Michigan (contact Mr. Michael Busse at 586-753-3839; bussem@michigan.gov); at the MDEQ, WMRPD, Constitution Hall, 4th floor South, 525 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan (contact Ms. Tyson at 517-284-6574; tysonk@michigan.gov); and at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Land and Chemicals Division, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Branch, Mail Code LR-8J, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois (contact Mr. James Blough at 312-886-2967; blough.james@epa.gov).

To receive future MDEQ notifications concerning MDWTP, please submit a written request for placement on the MDWTP facility mailing list to the address below. Comments or questions regarding MDWTP should be addressed to Ms. Kimberly M. Tyson, Hazardous Waste Section, WMRPD, MDEQ, P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7741.

Publish: January 4, 2018



They're reading the Independent everywhere

Frankie and Jessica Radcliff of Belleville took their *Independent* along with them on their honeymoon: a Caribbean cruise to Nassau, Bahamas. They were married July 14, 2017 at Belleville First United Methodist Church.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$30 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$35 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 343 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police for the past week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Dec. 24:

0014 -- 911 welfare check, Tompkins St.
0209 -- traffic offense, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0234 -- noise complaint, Maple Dr.
0308 -- property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
0447 -- civil matter, Lighthouse Dr.
0520 -- family trouble, Ironwood Dr.
0737 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1205 -- road hazard, Belleville Rd./Harmony Ln.
1315 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1326 -- noise complaint, Denton Rd.
1336 -- assist other dept., Haggerty/I-94
1355 -- property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr. / Haggerty Rd.
1412 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1414 -- domestic, Rayna Ct.
1531 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1553 -- animal complaint, Jackson St.
1634 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Tyler/Haggerty
1651 -- property damage accident, Hannan Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1825 -- robbery, Parkwood Dr.
1843 -- property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Bog Rd.
1923 -- property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Haggerty Rd.
1924 -- shooting, Richard Run Dr.
1935 -- assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr. / Haggerty Rd.
2020 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Van Born Rd. / Thornwood Dr.
2202 -- 911 welfare check, Wildbrook Dr.
2313 -- noise complaint, Lincoln St./Jackson St.
2344 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Crowley Ave.

Monday, Dec. 25:

0024 -- noise complaint, McBride Ave.
0108 -- noise complaint, Hampton Dr.
0259 -- 911 welfare check, N. Ponderosa Trl.
0857 -- domestic, Lincoln St.
1009 -- domestic, Meadows Cir.
1019 -- traffic offense, N. Timberview Dr.
1046 -- breaking & entering, W. Archwood Dr.
1058 -- civil matter, Oak Ln.
1145 -- malicious destruction of property, Hayes
1147 -- property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Parkwood Dr.
1401 -- civil matter, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1421 -- suspicious person/vehicle, WB I-94 / Belleville Rd.
1431 -- property damage accident, Ecorse/Beck
1457 -- civil matter, Oak Ln.
1502 -- neighbor trouble, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1538 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1550 -- disorderly, Jackson St.
1601 -- domestic, E. Archwood Dr.
1622 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1656 -- property damage accident, Ayres Ave.
1816 -- property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Van Born

Tuesday, Dec. 26:

0012 -- animal complaint, Montague Ave.
0233 -- 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
0325 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
0422 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Lincoln St.
0443 -- property damage accident, EB I-94 / Belleville Rd.
0612 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Lighthouse Dr.
0703 -- traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
0900 -- property damage accident, WB I-94 / Rawsonville Rd.
0903 -- property damage accident, EB I-94 / Rawsonville Rd.
0905 -- property damage accident, SB I-275 / Ecorse Rd.
0913 -- property damage accident, NB I-275 / Ecorse Rd.
1010 -- domestic, N. Woodbury Dr.
1018 -- property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1128 -- property damage accident, E I-94/Haggerty
1308 -- private property/property damage accident,

Cross Roads
1309 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1325 -- personal injury accident, E. Huron River
1341 -- animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
1431 -- found property/child, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1452 -- fraud, Bradley Dr.
1456 -- property damage accident, Bayshore Dr.
1538 -- domestic, Clayton Rd.
1545 -- threat, Ecorse Rd.
1731 -- personal injury accident, Belleville Rd. / Westlake Cir.
1819 -- retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1954 -- disorderly, Belleville Rd.
2019 -- leaving the scene of a property damage accident, S. Bellridge Dr.

Wednesday, Dec. 27:

0045 -- mental subject, Robson Rd.
0906 -- domestic, Beacon Trl.
0927 -- leaving the scene of a property damage accident, McBride Ave.
1035 -- fraud, Stonebridge Dr.
1200 -- larceny, Outer Dr.
1500 -- sexual assault, Old Michigan Rd.
1653 -- fraud, Sadie Ln.
1842 -- suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
1842 -- property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1845 -- property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Quirk Rd.
2050 -- larceny, Belleville Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 28:

0320 -- noise complaint, Sugarbush Ln. / S. Ponderosa Trl.
0501 -- 911 welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
0927 -- disorderly, Belleville Rd.
0928 -- larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1004 -- civil matter, Beacon Trl.
1034 -- malicious destruction of property, Belle Ridge Blvd.
1103 -- assist other dept., Rawsonville Rd.
1225 -- fraud, Farm Rd.
1246 -- malicious destruction of property, Martz
1322 -- abandoned auto, Wheeler St.
1601 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Bridge / Belleville Lake
1635 -- private property impound, Ecorse Rd.
1702 -- suicidal person, Briarwood Dr.
1709 -- domestic, Westlake Cir.
1805 -- animal complaint, S. Timberview Dr.
1915 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1919 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1948 -- assault & battery.
2030 -- private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2157 -- civil matter, Oak Ln.
2232 -- juvenile complaint, Assembly St.
2306 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Chester Ct. / Colonia Rd.
2314 -- property damage accident, EB I-94 / Rawsonville Rd.

Friday, Dec. 29:

0404 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. Sadie Ln.
0506 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Van Born Rd.
0608 -- domestic, Van Buren St.
0659 -- property damage accident, Belleville/Taco Bell
0734 -- personal injury accident, Beck Rd./Ecorse
0918 -- animal complaint, Jackson St.
1131 -- abandoned auto, Hamilton St.
1155 -- fraud, Hoeft Rd.
1213 -- animal complaint, Outer Dr./Old Michigan
1436 -- property damage accident, EB I-94 / Belleville Rd.
1509 -- property damage accident, Morton Taylor Rd. / Bradley Dr.
1637 -- lost property/child, Arthur St.
1747 -- animal complaint, Jeremy Rd.
1818 -- disorderly, Denton Rd.
1851 -- malicious destruction of property, Lake Villa Dr.
2010 -- neighbor trouble, Quirk Rd.
2028 -- disorderly, S. Bellridge Dr.
2118 -- animal complaint, Fairfield Dr.

Saturday, Dec. 30:

0031 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
0057 -- disorderly, Park Estates
0104 -- noise complaint, S. Bellridge Dr.

0136 -- property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis
0256 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Robson Rd. / Marlowe Ave.
0730 -- property damage accident, WB I-94 / Belleville Rd.
0744 -- neighbor trouble, Lake Point Pass
1040 -- abandoned auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1041 -- abandoned auto, Tyler/Meadows
1139 -- property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1218 -- property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Coca-Cola Dr.
1315 -- property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Beck Rd.
1332 -- shooting, Parkwood Dr.
1402 -- larceny from auto, Rickman Dr.
1539 -- larceny from auto, Rickman Dr.
1702 -- retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1704 -- property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
2244 -- shooting, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2322 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service

Also on this week's log were eight traffic stops, none of which were on the I-94 or I-275 freeways. There were 40 property damage accidents and two more accidents that carried personal injuries.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 24:

1753 -- vehicle lockout, S. Liberty St.
1915 -- suicidal person, Menlo Park Dr.

Monday, Dec. 25:

0203 -- civil matter, N. Aberdeen Ct.
0256 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd. / Spencer St.
1345 -- assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
1422 -- assist fire dept., N. Aberdeen Ct.
1709 -- welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.

Tuesday, Dec. 26:

0013 -- welfare check, Henry St.
0258 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Carmell St.
0730 -- larceny from person, Belle Villa Blvd.
0849 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. Aberdeen Ct.
1706 -- larceny from auto, Oxford
2017 -- assist fire dept., Bedell St.

Wednesday, Dec. 27:

0920 -- traffic offense, Main/Roy
1527 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
1617 -- welfare check, N. Biggs Ave.
1913 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. Biggs Ave.
2236 -- miscellaneous complaint, E. Columbia

Thursday, Dec. 28:

0316 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Carmell St.
0710 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Biggs Ave.
1221 -- larceny, Main St.
2202 -- assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
2220 -- assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.

Friday, Dec. 29:

1351 -- intrusion alarm, Belle Villa Blvd.
1714 -- assist fire dept., Carmell St.
2022 -- welfare check, Carmell St.
2056 -- assist other dept., San Carlos St.

Saturday, Dec. 30:

0134 -- 911 welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.
1027 -- assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1406 -- traffic offense, High/Church
1437 -- traffic offense, E. Huron River Dr. / Liberty
1706 -- disorderly, N. Liberty St.
1734 -- animal complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
2238 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. Aberdeen Ct.

Also on this week's log are 32 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 24:

0142 -- suspicious incident, Bemis/Odyssey
0328 -- fire dept. assist, Edgewood Dr.
1001 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1137 -- civil dispute, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1148 -- larceny, Rustic Ln.
1254 -- fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1338 -- fire dept. assist, Creekside
1418 -- assist other agency, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
1429 -- property damage accident, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
1459 -- fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.

1738 -- death investigation, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2013 -- reckless driver, Rawsonville/Willow

Monday, Dec. 25:

0138 -- fire dept. assist, Creekside
0846 -- alarm, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
0940 -- alarm, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1243 -- harassment complaint, Brookview
1831 -- property damage accident, Sumpter/Willis
2101 -- property damage accident, Willow/Sherwood
2304 -- fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 26:

0019 -- suspicious incident, Willis/Sumpter
1022 -- fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1330 -- 911 hang up, 46000 bl. Willow Rd.
1838 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1909 -- civil dispute, 25000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
1953 -- well-being check, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 27:

1108 -- mental health commitment, New Mexico
1139 -- fire dept. assist, Redwood
1304 -- malicious destruction of property, 50000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1319 -- harassment complaint, Rustic Ln.
1336 -- fire dept. assist, Hampshire
1345 -- malicious destruction of property, Carriage Ln.
1506 -- animal complaint, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1528 -- assist other agency, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1545 -- animal complaint, Sumpter/Willow
1652 -- noise complaint, Country Club Blvd.

Thursday, Dec. 28:

0212 -- alarm, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0348 -- fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0417 -- fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.
0724 -- property damage accident, 28000 bl. Clark Rd.
1214 -- fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1308 -- mental health commitment, 44000 bl. Paris Dr.
1535 -- fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1948 -- breaking & entering, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.Sat
2305 -- suspicious incident, Greenmeadow

Friday, Dec. 29:

0059 -- citizen assist, Bemis/Rawsonville
0129 -- traffic hazard, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
0210 -- threats complaint, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1055 -- animal complaint, Timberlane
1113 -- larceny, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1146 -- fraud complaint, 19000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1220 -- breaking & entering, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1852 -- neighbor dispute, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 30:

1207 -- fire dept. assist, Hampshire
1211 -- animal complaint, California
1214 -- 911 hang up, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
1235 -- fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1937 -- traffic hazard, Sumpter/Harris
2146 -- warrant arrest pick up, Willis/Rawsonville

Also on this week's log are four follow-up investigations, 29 miscellaneous details, 190 patrol checks, and 16 traffic stops.

VBT fire fighters rescue deer from ice on Belleville Lake

At about 9 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 27, a woman who lives on the shore of Belleville Lake called Van Buren Township to report a deer who was out on the ice and couldn't get to shore.

VBT Fire Captain Curtis Lundsford told Detroit media that it appeared the deer had been on the ice overnight. It was out about 250 yards from shore. He said it took them about 45 minutes to get the deer back to shore. Capt. Lundsford said it appeared to weigh about 200 pounds.

The woman reported when the deer got to shore and up the steep embankment near E. Huron River Drive, it stopped for a moment and looked back at the fire fighters before running off.

Lundsford said the fire fighters practice ice rescues regularly. The woman said she saw them riding across the ice on a machine and using a lasso attached to a pole.



The Belleville High School Class of 1957 held its 60th reunion Sept. 15 at the Eagles on Beck Road. Many more came to the Eagles than to the All-School Reunion the next day.

Regional Chamber, SCORE set mentoring for small businesses

The Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber of Commerce (SWCRC) and the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) announce the establishment of free, walk-in mentoring sessions for small businesses.

SCORE mentors will be available to assist small businesses on Jan. 9 and Jan. 25 and on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month thereafter. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the SWCRC offices on 20904 Northline Road, Taylor, 48180. All

small businesses, planned, new or existing, are welcome.

For further information call the SWCRC at (734) 284-6000 or go to www.swsrcc.com.

The Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber of Commerce serves members in 21 communities in Downriver Wayne County, including Belleville, Van Buren and Sumpter,

Established for more than 50 years, the non-profit chamber has more than 500

members including businesses (start-ups to international corporations), civic leaders, and elected officials who work together to promote the Downriver community.

Chamber activities include participation in legislative matters, economic development, education, and promotion of local businesses. The chamber also provides networking opportunities to enhance business relationships, professional growth, and business promotion.

SCORE, the Service Corps of Retired Executives, is a non-profit subsidiary of the Small Business Administration. Its mission is to nurture small and prospective businesses and ensure that they grow and thrive.

SCORE volunteer mentors have significant, high-level experience in many industries and are trained extensively on the mentoring process.

Mentors assist entrepreneurs as they address issues with start-up, ongoing operations, and growth. Mentors can give guidance on operations, marketing, financing and business planning.

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Kay Atkins of Threads & Treasures Quilt Shoppe on South Street near 5 Points is retiring and everything must go. Discounts start at 30% off all fabric, notions, patterns, books, samples, quilts, shelving, and much more. They're open Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.threadstrentreasures.com and call (734) 697-9376.

Belleville attorney Amy Eversole will be holding her one-day Family Peace & Harmony Through Estate Planning free seminar on Wednesday, Jan. 17, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Van Buren Township Community Center on Tyler Road. Participants will receive a \$100 discount on a basic estate planning package. For more information or to register, call (734) 718-8574.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? There is no cost. Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your suggestion.

Birthdays

Dec. 31 -- Journy Lynx Long

Jan. 6 -- Sara Davenport

Jan. 10 -- Kathy Mular

Jan. 11 -- Medina Atchinson, Lance McArthur, Beverly Berec

Do you have a birthday in January? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

"If a black cat crosses your path, it signifies that the animal is going somewhere."

— Groucho Marx

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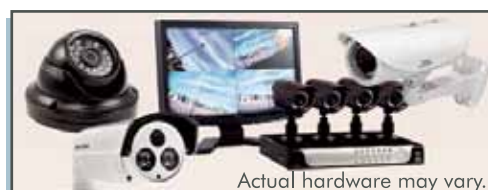
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VICTORIAN HOME PLUS CARRIAGE HOUSE



41901 AND 41903 S I-94 SERVICE DR, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
TIMELESS QUALITY is Found when Craftsmanship was a Fine Art in this Inspiring 7 Bed-room, 2 Bathroom, 3 story Victorian Home with a Massive 720 ft of frontage on Belleville Lake. This home was constructed in 1902 and has 3,083 square feet with full basement, 2 fireplaces, Impressive Study, Hardwood Everywhere complete with Leaded Glass Windows and Enclosed Wrap Around Porch. This also Includes an Impressive Carriage House that was also constructed in 1902 and has 1,960 square feet, TWO 2 Bedroom 1 Bathroom areas with Dock PLUS Vacant Lot. All 3 Parcels total 3.06 Acres on Belleville Lake. First Time Offered at \$799,500

NO ASSOCIATION FEES



634 LIGHT TOWER, BELLEVILLE
ABEYOND IMMACULATE HOME Features 3 Bedrooms (First Floor Master Suite with Master Bath), Gas Fireplace, Full Finished Basement, Sprinkler System, 2 1/2 Car Attached Garage, Fenced Yard, Large Rear Deck, Newer Roof and More. Wonderful Neighborhood. NO ASSOCIATION FEES & A Must See. \$225,000

CENTRAL AIR - POLE BARN



25701 SUMPTER, SUMPTER
CASH ONLY Clean 1 bedroom with possible 2nd bedroom in the upper area. 1 Bath, Large Utility Room, Dining Room and Living Room, Central Air, Big Paved Driveway and Large Pole Barn. \$89,900 Adjacent 1.98 Acre parcel available on Willow Road - MLS 217088694.

HURON TOWNSHIP



18277 MERRIMAN, HURON TWP
Country Living at It's Best! This Home has been Updated with New Kitchen and Granite Counter Tops, Hardwood Floors, Recessed Lighting, Cathedral Ceiling in Living Room and HUGH Family Room. Newer Windows, Central Air, Brick Paver Patio and Large Yard. In the Preferred Huron School District. \$165,000

FOR SALE OR LEASE



573 E HURON RIVER DR, BELLEVILLE
FRESH, CLEAN AND UPDATED Former Tanning Salon that would be Perfect for Beauty, Barber, Office Use, Medical or Other. Floor plan can be opened to accommodate larger areas. Huge Secure Parking Lot. This in a better area just a minute from downtown. Lease now at \$1,700 per month or Purchase at \$319,500

2,600+ SQUARE FEET



28525 KARR, SUMPTER
SPRAULING BRICK COUNTRY RANCH featuring Huge Family Room with Fireplace and Hardwood Floors, Open Kitchen, Hardwood Floors Everywhere, Large Master Bedroom with Master Bath. A Most Impressive Walkout from Family Room To Huge Recreation Room. 5 Acres AND Pole Barn. \$199,900

YES - ANN ARBOR



4401 PARK RD, ANN ARBOR
RARELY OFFERED SCIO TOWNSHIP Brick Farm House Featuring Four Bedrooms, Two Baths, Enclosed Front Porch, Living Room, Dining Room, Attached Garage, Huge Basement on Large 1.4 Acre Parcel Complete with Outbuildings and Large Barn. Just Minutes From Downtown Ann Arbor. \$350,000

UPGRADES EVERYWHERE



13490 CHRISTINA, VAN BUREN
THIS FORMER MODEL HOME only gets More Beautiful! Award Winning 3 Bedroom 3 Bath End Unit Condo. Open Floor Concept has Vaulted Ceilings, Beautiful Wood Floors everywhere, High End Kitchen Cabinets, Granite Counters, Large Master Suite, Loft Space, Overlooking Green Space & Pond. \$230,000

PRIVACY PLUS



5533 WILLIS, AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP
YOUR BEST COUNTRY CHOICE! Extra Clean Colonial Offering 5 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Open Kitchen and More. 2 1/2 Car Attached, 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage, Deck PLUS PROFESSIONALLY INSULATED 30X70 POLE BARN on 3 Acres. Paved Street and Immediate Occupancy. \$275,000

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VACANT KARR ROAD 5 ACRES \$35,000
46090 WEAR 1.09 AC BY PARK \$19,500
25817 SUMPTER 80X529 .97 AC \$20,000


42915 WILLIS 4 SPLITS \$30,000 & \$40,000
26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES \$30,000
24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES \$30,000
VACANT WEAR RD 5.28 ACRES \$60,000
26455 KARR 5 ACRES 162X1308 \$33,000
28710 SUMPTER ROAD \$10,000

49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES \$180,000
SHERWOOD 37.55 AC BY WEAR \$250,000
WILLOW ROAD 1.8 ACRES \$25,000
SUMPTER 8 AC NEXT TO 28200 \$35,000
VACANT SUMPTER & WILLIS COMM & RESIDENTIAL ZONING 25 ACR \$225,000

45109 S SERVICE DR 2+ ACRES \$274,900
MORTON TAYLOR \$20,000 AND \$20,000
VACANT LOUISA "DREAM LOT" \$70,000
VACANT HANNAN 4.4 ACRES \$79,900
MORTON TAYLOR 1.8 ACRES \$40,000
50435 BOG ROAD .55 ACRES \$50,000

VACANT BOG ROAD 1.36 ACRES \$30,000
VACANT BOG RD 12.83 ACRES \$129,000
47441 MARTZ ROAD 17+ ACRES \$176,000
739 SAVAGE PAVED ST 1.02 ACRES \$30,000
26129 LEONTINE HURON TWP \$22,000
GRANT ROMULUS 1.8 ACRES LT IN \$72,000

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